

TREE BOARD MEETING

March 2, 2011

12:30 p.m.

Planning & Development Conference Room

Roll Call

Members Present:

Chairman Olson
Board Member Harris
Board Member Wolfe

Staff Present:

Tara Norback	Planning Assistant
Joel Hornickel	Senior Planner
Roger Hunzeker	Parks & Recreation
Keith Francis	Public Works
Raeanne Presley	Mayor

DISCUSSION

Meeting Started at 12:34 p.m.

Roll was taken.

Approved minutes from January 5, 2011 and January 28, 2011 meetings. Motion by Board member Wolfe, seconded by Board Member Harris

Chairman Olson began the meeting and introduced Duane Gerken. Duane has been a member of the tree farmer association for the last 20 years. The goal is to improve the types and stands of timber that currently exist. He works closely with Greg Cassell with the Missouri Department of Conservation to improve the timber he maintains on his 55 acres off of Epps Road. Duane has removed a lot of cedar trees and added shagbark hickory to his property. He also wants to add shortleaf pine to the mix. Most of his seedlings from bare root with no soil amendments. The survival rate is usually about 50% depending on the deer population.

Mayor Presley joined the meeting at 12:50 pm.

Duane recommended the city become a tree farmer and as a result would receive the Missouri Forestkeepers Monitor newsletter that includes a wealth of information on trees, insects and other diseases trees have.

Duane Gerken left at 12:55pm. Roger Hunzeker joined the meeting at 12:55 pm.

Next item on the agenda was the discussion of the downtown trees. Tara showed the aerial map of the five (5) trees to be removed. She explained that the fifth tree was chosen due to a request by a business owner because the roots caused significant damage to their basement. She explained that the other trees were in locations where they would not be as noticed if they were removed. Tara stated, that Keith Francis from Public Works would remove the trees as

time allowed. Keith is finished up a current project downtown and with the upcoming tourist season it will be difficult to remove the remaining trees unless he waited until fall or winter. Tara also showed the planters that she found that would hold 25 gallons of water as an option for when the plan was developed for downtown.

Roger Hunzeker will work with the tree contractor to trim the trees downtown.

Joel Hornickel stated that the downtown trees and plan would be a great opportunity to work with the conservation department to assure the right tree is selected.

Mayor Presley recommended that a variety of trees be planted as other cities have done something similar. Joel agreed that it was a good idea in case something killed all of one variety the others would not be affected.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of Arbor Day plans. Tara said that she and the mayor had exchanged emails with the idea of combining the Arbor Day planting and a picnic at Lakeside Forest. The planting will occur on Friday April 29th and the picnic will be on Saturday April 30th at Lakeside Forest. The idea was to plant redbuds and dogwoods at the top of the entrance to the park and install some basic irrigation to reduce the overall maintenance for the parks department. The mayor mentioned that it was the request of the Owen family to preserve the flower beds and to add something decorative to keep people from walking through the beds.

The next item was an update of the Memorial Tree Program. Tara updated the board regarding contact that was received by a woman, through the DBMA, inquiring about a program that she would be able to dedicate a downtown tree to her father. Cris Bohincs, Alderwoman and DBMA representative explained that a program had been created but it was not fully functional yet and forwarded her information to Tara Norback. Tara spoke with the woman and discussed the basics of what the program would be. At the request of the woman, she had created a certificate to be presented to her father on his birthday. The certificate was passed around. Tara then discussed with the assistance of Joel that through discussion they wanted to create levels for the program. Currently, the levels consisted of \$150 and \$250. It was recommended that the levels be \$250, \$500, \$1,000 and then a corporate level of \$5,000. The board approved this change. It was also suggested that an interactive map be available through the website showing the locations of the memorial trees.

Tara then discussed the location and cost of the mural that was bid by Raine Clotfelter. Further discussion took place as to the specific location of the mural whether it be at City Hall or the Rec Plex.

Mayor Presley left at 1:35 pm

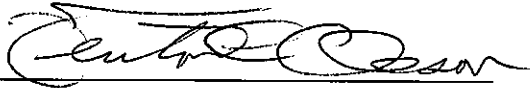
The board decided to move forward with the mural at the initial location of the first floor lobby. Tara also presented samples she had received from an engraver of what the leaf plaques could be like and the options of colors for the different donation levels.

The final item on the agenda was the discussion of the landscaping ordinance. Tara had emailed a list on January 31, 2011 to all the members. Tara went down the list to discuss:

1. Anti-topping: Board member Harris suggested that instead of the negativity of anti-topping that it became more positive, such as proper tree health and care
2. Add and Clarify definitions: there are very few definitions and they need to be centrally location at the beginning of the code. The board agreed that it was a good idea to make it simpler. Board member Harris had suggested that each department have a Tree Supervisor to report to the Forester any issue they have seen around or any questions they may have.
3. Land disturbance permit and ordinance: Joel mentioned that some of this may be addressed in the near future since the city's population has reach over 10,000. At this level, regulations are needed by state or federal government, for erosion control, storm water runoff, etc. Tara explained the confusion developers were having by using the only landscaping permit.
4. Reorganize: separating residential and commercial. By separating the two, it makes it easier for the public instead of sorting through the entire landscaping code. The board agreed this was a good idea.
5. Change the landscaping deposit to be able to be forfeited: Tara explained the code and that the planting on private property was not pursued as it wasn't sure if it was actually allowed to go on someone's property and plant trees and shrubs. It was agreed that the account should be forfeitable. A timeframe for forfeiture was discussed and Tara said that it could be kept the same as 6 months after certificate of occupancy or expiration of the permit.
6. Require plantings within stepped retaining walls: Tara explained the existing code and discussed the Branson Hills walls that do not have any versus the wall behind the Conoco gas station on Hwy 248 that did. Options of vegetation could be provided and the cost would be minimal comparatively. Shrubs or vines and other vegetation that would have minimal if any maintenance, would be preferable to help disguise the wall.
7. Interior and perimeter green: Board member Harris thought that providing examples of what the City liked in regards to landscaping would be helpful to applicants. The ART process would be a great venue to discuss. Joel stated that at first he thought the code was weak regarding the requirements, he now says that he thinks it is good but it could be improved.
8. Offer incentives for green parking lots, such as bio swales, rain gardens, pervious pavers and pavement: This is an option but needs to be worked out with Engineering to assure they would approve such measures. Incentives need to be discussed so as to not give away too much but to help out the builder as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm. Motioned by Board member Harris and seconded by board member Wolfe.

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Olson and seconded by board member Harris at 1:55 pm.



Kenton Olson, Chairperson

5/4/2011

Date



Tara Norback, Planning Assistant

5/4/11

Date